



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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DOVER WOMAN SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono, Portsmouth Police Chief Michael Magnant, and Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the FBI Kenneth W. Kaiser announced that the Honorable Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr., today sentenced Dover resident Mary-Jo Hinkle to a term of imprisonment of four months to be followed by seven months home confinement for converting over \$22,000 from her Portsmouth, New Hampshire, employer. Hinkle previously pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud based upon that scheme.

In connection with her plea, Hinkle admitted that, from about April 10, 2002, to December 3, 2003, she drew checks against her employer's checking account payable to herself and cash and used those funds for her personal benefit. She also admitted that she concealed her scheme by falsifying the identities of the payees of the checks in her employer's financial records. Hinkle acknowledged that she drew approximately forty-four checks in this fashion, converting a total of \$22,603.78.

At today's sentencing, the Court enhanced Hinkle's sentence based upon a finding that, to facilitate and conceal her offense, Hinkle abused the trust placed in her by her employer. In addition, to the terms of incarceration and home detention, Judge DiClerico ordered Hinkle to serve a term of five years of supervised release and to pay full restitution to her former employer.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "The Department of Justice has identified white collar crime as a priority for investigation and prosecution. My office is committed to prosecuting white collar criminals who abuse their employers' or stockholders' trust. In this case, although the loss was limited, a term of imprisonment was important to reflect the defendant's serious breach of her employer's trust."

The investigation was conducted by the Portsmouth Police Department with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Morse.